

## **ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER — November 2012**

### **CALENDAR**

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m. on First Days
- First Day School for children: 11 a.m. (Joining meeting for worship from 11:45 a.m. to noon)
- Nursery care for our youngest: 11 a.m.
- Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business: 1st First Day of month at 9 a.m.
- Adult religious education: As noted in calendar below

NOVEMBER 4: 9 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 1 p.m. Potluck lunch

NOVEMBER 11: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship and [child welcoming](#)

NOVEMBER 18: 9 a.m. Committee Meetings; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; Newsletter items deadline: please email!

NOVEMBER 25: 8 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Stewardship and Finance

NOTE: A mediation study group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the main meeting room unless otherwise noted. All are welcome; participants are invited to read Larry Rosenberg's "Breath by Breath."

### **QUERIES FOR ELEVENTH MONTH: EDUCATION**

Do you provide religious education, including the study of the Bible and of Friends' history and practices, in your Meeting? Do you ensure that schools under the care of Friends exemplify Friends' principles? Do you support and strive to improve the public schools? (Faith & Practice, p. 41)

### **FRIENDS OF COLOR TO MEET IN PENNSYLVANIA**

The annual gathering of Friends of Color and their families will occur from Friday, November 2, to Sunday, November 4, at Providence Meeting House in Media, PA. The gathering is sponsored by FGC's Ministry on Racism Program. Overnight accommodations will be at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA. For more information, visit <http://www.fgcquaker.org/events/gifts-and-challenges> or call Vanessa July at 215-561-1700, ext 3006.

### **CHILD WELCOMING**

Child Welcoming will occur this year on Sunday, November 11. This is a joyous annual event at which children are welcomed into the Meeting. Children of both members and attenders can be welcomed.

The children and adults from First Day School and Nursery will enter Meeting for Worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. The children who are being welcomed will have the opportunity to share thoughts or artwork with the Meeting, and there will be a worship sharing.

Each child who is welcomed will be presented with a certificate of welcoming, and those in attendance will be asked to sign the certificate of each child at the rise of Meeting. We will also have cookies and drinks to share with the children and their families, and all others in attendance following meeting. Any family who wishes to have their child welcomed this year, or has questions, please get in touch with one of us.

Looking forward to a wonderful day!

Kimberly B. and Joanna T., Co-Clerks, Children's Religious Education Committee

## **HOLIDAY DONATIONS FOR LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER**

Here is a list of opportunities for helping the Light House this holiday season. Some involve donations of food or other items, but some simply require a little time. Michele Marshall, the center's volunteer coordinator, would love to hear from you if you feel moved to contribute; her contact information is at the bottom of this announcement.

### **THANKSGIVING**

The Lighthouse will be distribute Thanksgiving Baskets to families in the community on Monday, November 19. Any number of baskets that are donated will be greatly appreciated! A "basket" can be an actual basket or a sturdy box. Here are suggestions for items to be included. We ask that each basket include enough to feed a family of 4 to 6 people:

Grocery Store Gift Card to purchase a turkey (This makes the basket a lot easier to carry.)  
Canned Sweet Potatoes  
Canned Green Beans  
Boxed Mashed Potatoes  
Canned Sauerkraut  
Stuffing and Dinner Rolls  
Sugar, Flour, and Gravy Mix  
Cranberry Sauce  
Pancake Mix, and Syrup  
Dessert: Brownie Mix, Cake Mix, or Ingredients to Make a Pie  
Coffee/tea/hot chocolate  
Sparkling Cider

We will also need volunteers to assist:

- November 14 to 16: Helping to assemble and organize Thanksgiving baskets
- Monday, November 19: Thanksgiving Basket Distribution (1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.)
- Thursday, November 22: Various timeslots to prepare for and serve the Thanksgiving Dinner for our residents

Donations needed for our Light House Thanksgiving Dinner for our residents:

4 Turkeys  
3 Hams  
Canned yams, several cans  
20 packaged cut frozen green beans  
25 lbs of potatoes  
25 Apples  
10 Bunches of Celery  
25 lbs of Onions  
25 lbs Carrots  
Butter

### **CHRISTMAS**

1. Sponsor-a-Family: I will have "Wish Lists" for the families in our program. If you are interested in providing gifts for a family, please contact me and I will get the wish list to you. You can request a particular family size. We ask that all gifts be delivered to the Light House (wrapped and labeled please) by Monday, December 17.

2. Gifts for Individual Residents: We are asking for a Gift Bag marked "Male" or "Female" and "Small," "Medium," or "Large" with gift items inside. Here are a few gift item ideas:

- Gift Cards for stores within walking distance of the Light House such as: Target, Kohls, and Annapolis Mall shops
- Warm Gloves, Scarves, Hats
- New, unopened packages of underwear and socks

- Pre-Paid Phone Cards

Please note: All items are not required for all of the bags. The list above includes many items that are needed, but they will be appreciative of anything that they receive. We ask that the bags not be stapled and that they be delivered to the Light House by Monday, December 17.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to donate baskets, gifts, or sponsor a family. Thank you for your support!

Michele Marshall, Volunteer Services Coordinator  
 THE LIGHT HOUSE, A Homeless Prevention Support Center  
 10 Hudson Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
 Phone: 410-349-5056  
 Direct Dial: 443-569-42  
 marshall@annapolislighthouse.org

## **THINKING ABOUT RACE**

### **Tribe or ethnicity--what's the difference?**

This question arose in a recent conversation about the appropriateness of talking about "tribes" vs "ethnic groups." Some Friends were adamant that "tribes" was the proper word to use, and others said that this could be seen as condescending.

Just as fish don't know what water is because it's just the way things are, so, too, are we strongly influenced by our culture to think that the words and images we choose describe reality. But, when we are able to see that a word implies that some people are more important than others, this insight brings us closer to the truth expressed by our Testimony on Equality. David Zarembka (Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams) gives this perspective in his book, "A Peace of Africa" (p. 125):

"While the word 'tribe' is used in East Africa rather than 'ethnicity,' the word 'tribe' to most Westerners has negative, 'primitive' connotations. Why are Native Americans considered tribes, but Italians or Poles are not considered a tribe? What is the difference between the Scottish 'clans' and tribes? Since language is often what separates one tribe from another, why are not the Welsh considered a tribe as they have their own language? When did the Angles, Saxon, and Norman tribes that conquered England stop becoming 'tribes' and become English?"

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Working Group on Racism meets most months on the third Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Bethesda Friends Meeting or Friends Meeting of Washington. If you would like to attend, on a regular or a drop-in basis, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net or Pat Schenck at pat.schenck@verizon.net

## **MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS MINUTES**

SEVENTH DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, 2012

Present were: Elise A. (Clerk), Phyllis S. (Recording Clerk), and 18 other Friends and attenders. Our Meeting began with centering worship.

Stewardship and Finance Committee (S&F) – Barbara T. presented the first draft of 2013 budget, which appears in the Newsletter: S&F hopes that Friends will take some time over the next month to familiarize themselves with the budget, discuss it at committee meetings, bring questions and concerns to the meeting for learning on October 28, and bring any feedback on the budget to November business meeting. S&F will present a final budget at the December business meeting. The draft budget is balanced (income equals expenses) and reflects all the committee funding requests received by S&F. We note that committees are getting better at estimating their true needs and trust that S&F will consider requests for disbursement from the Committee Contingency Fund when required. The budget fully funds all restricted funds, including the Capital Improvement Fund, which will be used for the solar panel project. It also funds the Building Fund at \$10,000.

Pastoral Care Committee (PC) – Mary B. presented a minute (below) on the difference between marriage "under the care of meeting" and "in the manner of friends": This minute includes more gender neutral language to address same-sex marriages at Meeting. "Under the care of meeting" involves a clearness committee and support afterwards, whereas "in the manner of friends" does not. This minute does not address other marriage ceremonies conducted at AFM for renters. **MINUTE CLARIFYING MARRIAGE "UNDER THE CARE OF MEETING" AND "IN THE MANNER OF FRIENDS"**: The Annapolis Friends Meeting Marriage Guide states that, "Couples at least one of whom is a member or regular attender or a present or former associate (familial) member of the meeting may be married under the care of Annapolis Friends Meeting." A couple married under the care of the meeting meets with a clearness committee prior to the wedding and Annapolis Friends Meeting supports the couple throughout their marriage.

Couples who are not members or regular attenders, or members or attenders who so wish, may be married "in the manner of Friends" at the Annapolis Friends Meeting House. The assumption is that the style of the wedding will be similar to that of Friends, including a period of unprogrammed worship and participation of the guests as witnesses to the marriage. A member or attender of Annapolis Friends Meeting must serve as the liaison to the couple being married in the manner of Friends.

Children's Religious Education – Joanna T. reported a request from CREC to hold a child welcoming on November 11, 2012. **ACTION**: CREC will check the date with Ministry and Worship. CREC will consider bringing the welcoming certificates early so that early worshipers can also sign them.

Committee Reports. Full updates will appear in the Newsletter and the book of MfB minutes:

Meetinghouse and Land Committee (MHL) - Wes Jordan presenting the MHL update: MHL is responsible for all aspects of the meeting infrastructure, physical plant, and property. As such, they seriously consider replacement needs and the implementation of green technologies. MHL also oversees the activities of three standing subcommittees: Growing and Greening, Hospitality, and Building Utilization. We are reminded that the Fall Meeting House and property clean-up day is scheduled for October 13, 2012 from 9 a.m. to noon, with a rain date backup of October 20, 2012.

MHL will consider whether any or all of the subcommittees should be absorbed into MH&L's regular responsibilities.

Pastoral Care (PC) – Mary B. presented the PC update, describing the many ways that PC conducts its ministry. In addition to their usual work, they also incorporate technology (carecalendar.org) to coordinate concrete assistance for members and attenders. Carecalendar.org is supported entirely through donations. Note that PC and CREC will discuss where the responsibility for child welcoming should reside.

Additional concerns:

- A Friend requests that M&W shorten the initial period of silent worship at MfB so that members and attenders arrive in a more timely manner for MfB.
- We are reminded that the 20th anniversary of AFM in the current building will occur.
- We are reminded that Nominating Committee (NC) will contact members and attenders. We are invited to call NC to let them know where we'd like to serve.
- A Friend reminds us that the area for the name tags is now larger. The board for pictures is ready for Outreach to update. Stephanie D. will update the directory.

Closing: These minutes were read and approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elise A., Clerk, and Phyllis S., Recording Clerk

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

### **Two works by Daisy Newman: autobiography and novel**

Reviewed by Susan D.

For a long while, I'd wondered what Daisy Newman's books were like. Interestingly, I started with one of her latest, "A Golden String." This is a gentle memoir about her writing life and her life as a Quaker. She wrote it, first, for her family. But others that read it pleaded with her to publish it. Thankfully, for all, she did.

As I still savored the rich feelings about finally becoming a member of AFM, it was helpful to read of someone's lifelong Quakerism along with her dedication to writing and her family and friends. She's definitely a person I would love to have met.

Reading "A Golden String" made me want to venture into one of her novels. I chose, "I Take Thee, Serenity." Seeing the copyright date of 1975, I questioned whether it would be pertinent today. The main characters, Rennie and Peter, are in college and contemplating marriage. Rennie journeys to her late great-grandmother's home to ask an older cousin about Quaker weddings. She's in for much more than she could possibly have imagined.

There are times when Newman's writing seems slightly simplistic or outdated. Yet, in the next breath, words will appear that ooze poetry and touch deep emotional questions.

"Who is this novel for?," I keep asking myself. Is it merely a romantic story? There is a lightness to the book (it's rare to find a Quaker novel). I do feel, though, that it illustrates good building blocks for a strong marriage along with a clear sense of an earlier New England Quaker community.

If you want high adventure, move on. But if you're interested in early Quaker relationships and family life and you need a good bedtime story with some profound passages and no nightmares, these might be the books for you.

## **QUAKER QUOTES FOR NOVEMBER**

In the stillness you will find your true being. In the silence you will hear the breathing of your soul.  
(Neale Donald Walsch)

Seek for yourselves and for your children that full development of God's gifts which is true education. Realize that it should be continued throughout life and that its privileges should be shared by all. Study the Bible intelligently, using the help available from modern sources. Make every effort to understand the Christian faith. Be ready at all time to receive fresh light from whatever quarter it may come; approach new theories with discernment. Remember our testimony that Christianity is not a notion but a way. (Advices, London, 1964)

To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us. A care hath lived on my mind, that more time might be employed by parents at home, and by tutors at school, in weightily attending to the spirit and inclinations of children, and that we may so lead, instruct, and govern them, in this tender part of life, that nothing may be omitted in our power, to help them on their way to become the children of our Father who is in Heaven. (John Woolman, 1758)

A Thanksgiving Prayer  
by Samuel F. Pugh

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have  
no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer.  
And, remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency,  
bestir my compassion  
and be concerned enough to help,  
by word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.  
Amen.

(As reprinted in The Thanksgiving Ceremony, Edward Bleier, Editor, Crown, 2003)

## **HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by November 18.
- Phil Caroom is the editor of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to him at [annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com).
- Friends also are asked to watch your email for announcements of meetings and to listen for announcements at the rise of meeting.
- Event and activity organizers, please also post your announcements on the bulletin board for those who do not use electronic mail!
- Announce List: [announce@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto:announce@annapolis.quaker.org); Discuss List: [discuss@annapolis.quaker.org](mailto:discuss@annapolis.quaker.org)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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